

address for this case in accordance with Applicant's August 27, 2002 submission and that all future communications be sent directly to the above correspondence address. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims or restart of the period for response to the Final Rejection.

Applicant thanks Examiner Tomas Friend for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative at the January 13, 17 and 27 telephonic interviews. At those interviews, Applicant's representative pointed out that claims 30 and 35 were not rejected but were not indicated to be allowable. Applicant's separate record of the further substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 26, 29 and 31 to 35 are pending.

Claim 35 was objected to as having two periods. Claim 35 is amended to delete the incorrect period following "and."

Claims 26, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Frey and claims 26, 29 and 31 to 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Gross et al. Claims 30 and 35 were not rejected. At the January 27 interview, the Examiner indicated that claims 30 (if written in independent form) and 35 were allowable subject to further search.

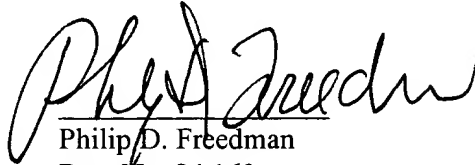
Claim 30 has been rewritten as independent claim 26 with the limitations of base claim 26. Claim 26 should be allowable. Claims 29 and 31 to 34 depend from claim 30. Claims 29 and 31 to 34 should be allowable. Claim 35 has been amended to remove the objection. Claim 35 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26, 29 and 31 to 35 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.



Should the Examiner believe that any further action is required in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Alexandria, Virginia
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please rewrite claims 26 and 35 as follows:

26. (three times amended) A synthesis system, comprising a vessel for combinatorial chemical process having:

a charge port comprising an air lock capable of sequentially receiving a plurality of discrete combinations of reactants;

a vertically longitudinal reaction chamber in communication with said charge port, said reaction chamber being capable of receiving and enclosing the plurality of discrete combinations of reactants disposed linearly within said chamber; and

a discharge port comprising an air lock, distinct from said charge port, in communication with said vertically longitudinal reaction chamber to sequentially discharge reaction products of said combinations from said reaction chamber;

wherein said vertically longitudinal reaction chamber is adapted to receive each of said combinations of reactants in a vial by sequential gravity loading from the charge port.

35. (twice amended) A synthesis system, comprising a vessel for combinatorial chemical synthesis having:

a charge port comprising an air lock controlled by a ball valve and capable of sequentially receiving a plurality of discrete combinations of reactants;

a reaction chamber in communication with said charge port, said reaction chamber being capable of receiving and enclosing the plurality of discrete combinations of reactants disposed linearly within said chamber;

a discharge port comprising an air lock controlled by a ball valve to sequentially discharge reaction products of said combinations from said reaction chamber;



a detector proximate to said discharge port to detect said sequentially discharged reaction product from said reaction chamber; and[.]

a controller in communication with said reaction vessel to control varying reaction parameters within said chamber.